



PTA Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2015

9:00 am

Attendees: Johanna Esshaki (PTA), Billy Jackson (Teacher Representative), Niki Knight (PTA) Contrepa Jewell (7th Grade Parent), Jason Clinkscale (Principal), Todd Wojtowicz (6th Grade Parent), Sharon Spilkin (PTA), and Lisa Teets (PTA).

Johanna Esshaki, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 9:16AM.

President Report-Johanna Esshaki

- PTA Council Meeting -The topic of the possibility of starting school before Labor Day instead of after Labor Day. Benefit to starting before Labor Day? The school calendar year gets shortened by three (3) days.
- There is a bill, trying to pass through the House, in regards to being able to carry concealed guns in public place, including in schools. The Bill is not looking to pass.
- Reflections - Judging due by December 4th, 5th. Monday is the deadline for submissions.
- Discussion of a Conflict of Interest Policy Form - should one be implemented for the members of the Board and for products accepted from not-for-profit organizations?
- BEF - Title of this year's event is "Passport to Learning". Berkshire PTA to make up a basket for the silent auction. A strolling dinner will be held at Somerset Mall on February 6, 2016. Tickets can be purchased through the end of January.
- MPTA T-Shirt Design- Kids can get involved. It is judged by the MPTA. Details on the MPTA website.
- Obama proposing to reduce testing in schools -MSTEP and PSAT
Constant testing interferes with school learning, loss of computer lab times due to testing, limiting time is important but balanced. NWEA - Birmingham will continue (Reading and Math). It helps target specific skills and is very helpful for the teachers. Test results have been and are being sent out.
- Bond Construction to take place very soon. Bond dollars have been spent.
- Spirit Wear - There will be no more orders taken for the rest of the year. Left over supply will be sold in the bookstore.
- School Supplies -Two (2) companies have approached the PTA to inquire if Berkshire would be interested in purchasing a "school supplies" box. These boxes would be set up as they do for the elementary children, but geared towards middle school classes.
Our questions: Can we meet the needs for each grade? Do we want to sell these boxes at registration? We do not think a third party vendor would be acceptable. PTA voted - No

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the October meeting were not available. October meeting minutes will have to be approved at next meeting in January, 2016.

Treasurer Report – Sharon Spilkin

- Membership funds are high. Revenue Side capped - the bulk is in.
- Expenses - \$9,000 technology grant just passed.
- We have a long ways to go in regards to the school year. Leftover dollars from science fair - it will get reallocated.
- \$1,500 of \$5,000 teacher requests has been approved. Music director requested \$500 for purchase of drums for her World Drumming for Success Class. PTA approved request.
- Technology Grant - request for additional products, Bond grant to replace computers.

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- Last meeting purchase of Compasses were approved, ordered, paid for and delivered. Mr. Jackson requested a \$1,500 instructor's stipend. PTA responsible to higher instructor in regards to the Traveling Classroom? That could create a problem with the District.

Principal's Report - Jason Clinkscale

- Traveling Classroom
Instructor would be needed for three (3) days to instruct five (5) classes, approximately 230 student. One (1) hour per day, per student.
Background checks are done for outside people. School cannot pay individual vendors.
This Traveling Classroom, is this a one time thing? Is this something we can do yearly? If so, maybe we can get the BEF involved.
Can these issues be solved? Mr. Jackson will speak with the potential instructor to see if there's a possibility she would be able to donate her time. She is an online teacher. Mr. Jackson also found out that her husband owns a adventure company. He will do more research and it will be presented at the next PTA meeting in January. The Traveling Classroom dates are May 3-5, 2016.
- Conference Dinner a success! Hopefully we will see more volunteers for the spring conference dinners.
- Concession Stand for Boys Basketball Home Games. No one volunteered to run a one (1) hour slot. It has been decided to cancel the concession stand sales.
- Jason thanked the PTA for the Conference Dinners.
- Jason thanked everyone for the support for Team Trevor. At the meeting time he was recovering from surgery and doing great!
- Update on Technology - Received bond money for outdated technology, laptops. Jason noted that his laptop is from 2006.
- Michael Babcock has proposed a couple of student only programs.
"B Unit" - 6th graders pair up with 8th graders. 8th graders to be mentors to the 6th graders.
- "Gym Cats" - Open gym for all students from 5:30PM - 7:00PM, Wednesday, 19th
- Dine and Dash - Friday
- 8th Grade Transition Trip, 8th Graders to tour Groves High School.
- Thanksgiving Break, no school November 25 – 29, December 9th - delayed start
- BEF continues to support - Over \$170,000 in grants have been approved.
- Band Concert Series coming up:
Choir, December 14th, Orchestra, December 16th, Band, December 17th
- Break starts December 18th
- Weekly update character education - "Respect" is word of the month, please stress the importance of the word.
- 6th Grade Bingo Night, January 13th
- Science Fair, January 7th - Science Fair to be more like an Expo
- Art Jam in May

Meeting was adjourned at 10:23AM.

Respectfully submitted by: Lisa Teets, VP of Volunteers